

a terminal comprising a cylindrical wire end receiving portion and a cylindrical connecting portion for connecting to other equipment; and

a covered electric wire from which a leading end of a covering is removed to expose a leading end of an electric conductor,

the wire end receiving portion receiving the leading end of the exposed electric conductor of the covered electric wire and a part of the covering, and the wire end receiving portion being uniformly compressed around substantially the entire periphery thereof to be in close contact with the exposed electric conductor.

REMARKS

By this Amendment After Final, Applicants propose amending claim 1 in order to clarify the language in that claim. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-6 remain pending in this application.

As an initial matter, Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative during the telephone interview of November 13, 2002, and Applicants have proposed amending claim 1 as discussed during the interview.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Titcombe et al. (U.S. Patent no. 4,707,566); rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Titcombe et al. in view of Brumbach et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,042,737); and rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Titcombe et al.

Claims 1 and 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Titcombe et al. In order to anticipate a claim, the cited reference must contain every recitation contained within the claim. M.P.E.P. § 2131. Applicants respectfully submit

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that the Titcombe et al. reference fails to anticipate Applicants' independent claims 1 and 5 because it fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of those claims.

Independent claims 1 and 5 respectively recite, *inter alia*, "the wire end receiving portion being *uniformly compressed around substantially the entire periphery* thereof," and "uniformly compressing the cylindrical wire end receiving portion around *the entire circumference*." Titcombe et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least those aspects of claims 1 and 5. In fact, Titcombe et al. teaches a crimping apparatus and method closely related to that described in the "Description of the Related Art" of the instant application which has disadvantages the instant invention is at least partially concerned with overcoming.

As described in the Amendment filed July 31, 2002, Titcombe et al. clearly discloses distinct pressure point crimping, which cannot be considered to be "uniformly compressed around *substantially the entire periphery*," or "uniformly compressing the cylindrical wire end receiving portion around the entire circumference," as recited by claims 1 and 5, respectively.

Furthermore, the other cited reference, Brumbach et al., fails to overcome the shortcomings of Titcombe et al.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons given above, independent claims 1 and 5 are allowable. Furthermore, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-4 and 6 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on claims 1 and 5, as well as by their additional recitations of novel and non-obvious subject matter.

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Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of this application, the entry of this Amendment After Final, the withdrawal of the outstanding claim rejections, and the allowance of claims 1-6.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation might advance prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicants' representative at 571-203-2739.

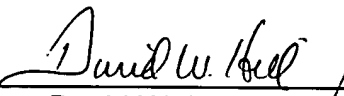
The Office Action contains numerous assertions relating to the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether those assertions are addressed specifically herein, Applicants decline to subscribe automatically to them.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 3, 2003

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APPENDIX TO THE AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1, as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A structure for mounting a terminal to a covered electric wire comprising:

a terminal comprising a cylindrical wire end receiving portion and a cylindrical connecting portion for connecting to other equipment; and

a covered electric wire from which a leading end of a covering is removed to expose a leading end of an electric conductor,

the wire end receiving portion receiving the leading end of the exposed electric conductor of the covered electric wire and a part of the covering, and the wire end receiving portion being uniformly compressed around substantially the entire periphery thereof to be in close contact with the exposed electric conductor.

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